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## Press spooks

Adm. Stansfield Turner, the director of the CIA, told the American Society of Newspaper Editors yesterday that he intends to continue a policy of using foreign correspondents in secret operations if necessary. The ASNE is opposed to the practice, and so it should be.

A large part of the success of foreign correspondents, like that of their domestic colleagues, depends on their ability to cultivate authoritative sources and to move freely among opposing sides. This ability depends in turn on the confidence of these sources that journalists are what they say they are and not the agents of some foreign government. The broad access that American correspondents enjoy abroad, unlike many of their foreign colleagues whose employers are government controlled, stems from the freedom of the press that exists in this country. But the CIA policy that Admiral Turner defended in his remarks to the ASNE yesterday, could be the undoing of all this for it would cast suspicion on all American correspondents, many of whom already are working in difficult circumstances. In the worst circumstances, it could even endanger their lives.

When George Bush was director of the CIA in 1974, he forbade the use of American journalists in CIA operations. Admiral Turner should do the same.